



Guidance for K-12 Schools, Daycares and Other Childcare Facilities

Harris County Public Health Department encourages all school officials to carefully review and follow the CDC's guidance for K-12 schools and childcare centers, as well as their recommendations for mass gatherings and large events. Some students and staff who have underlying health conditions, such as weakened immune systems, are at higher risk. Caregivers of individuals with these health conditions should consult with healthcare providers about whether their students should stay home.

TAKE ACTION AS NEEDED

- Have a plan to educate students through digital and distance learning
- Limit the number of classroom activities where students and staff are working within arm's length of one another
- Limit or cancel large in-person student activities, events, meetings and conferences
- Have a plan to continue student services (such as, school meal programs and social services) if schools close

ENHANCED HYGIENE

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer, if soap and water are not available
- Avoid close contact with other people
- Avoid touching, your eyes, nose and mouth
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONS

- Regular cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces (e.g. doorknobs, tabletops, counter, phone, keyboards, fixture and elevators)
- Wash laundered items on the hottest setting and dry completely. Disinfect items used to carry laundry
- Place sanitizing hand rub dispensers in frequently visited places (e.g. front entrances, elevators)
- Display posters promoting hand-washing and preventing the spread of illness
- Have a separate area for people who become sick

STAY HOME IF SICK

- If a child has symptoms of respiratory illness, isolate and send home
- Allow for flexible attendance and sick leave policies consistent with public health messaging. Inform staff and parents of changing attendance and sick leave policies
- Don't require sick students or employees to have doctors' notes as health care offices are likely very busy and unable to provide documentation right away

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**For additional workplace guidance visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov)*